



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

September 28, 2005

Congressman Thomas G. Tancredo
1130 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tancredo:

I was not at all surprised to receive your letter attacking the positive actions we have taken in New Mexico to secure our border. Once again, you will do anything to attract publicity including distorting the facts.

I was surprised that you not only disregarded the facts surrounding the emergency declaration in New Mexico, but also that you chose to completely distort the truth.

The emergency declaration in New Mexico provided much needed funds for additional law enforcement personnel, border vehicles, and equipment to beef up border security. This was in response to you and your colleagues in Congress failing to provide adequate border security.

The fact is that what you are doing in Washington is divisive, partisan demagoguery on a critical issue for our country. Your words serve no other purpose than to divide the American people. Frankly, people are growing tired of your blustering, and would much rather see you and your colleagues actually accomplish something for the common good.

During your time in Congress, you have neglected to make our borders more secure, keep our people safe, reduce criminal activity, or stop border violence.

The federal government has abdicated its responsibility to keep our borders secure. So New Mexico and other states have been forced to stand up and take action on our own. Now, when positive action is taken, you choose to release a misleading statement to the press in a desperate attempt to grab another headline, hoping it diverts the public's attention away from a decade of inaction that you have perpetrated.

Next time, before you criticize a New Mexico policy, at least have the courtesy to become familiar with the facts. And do more on immigration than just giving nightly speeches to an empty chamber so you can get on C-SPAN.

A handwritten signature of Bill Richardson in black ink.

Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico

BR/mr